

## Assessment of Attitude of Health Workers as a Factor Affecting Accessibility to Antenatal Care Services among Pregnant Women at Internally Displaced Persons' Camps in Borno State, Nigeria

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### **Abstract**

*The study examined health workers' attitude as a factor affecting accessibility to antenatal care services by pregnant women in Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs) Camps in Borno State, Nigeria. Survey type of descriptive research design was adopted and the population of the study comprised pregnant women in fifteen (15) IDPs' Camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State totaling four thousand four hundred and forty (N=4,440). Simple random sampling technique was used and selected 400 respondents from six (6) selected IDPs' Camps. The research instrument was a researcher developed structured questionnaire which was validated by experts from Physical and Health Education Department, Aminu Saleh College of Education, Azare, Bauchi State Nigeria and the reliability was ascertained using split-half method and a reliability coefficient of .84 ( $r = .84$ ) was obtained. Data was collected with the help of six female research assistants. The postulated hypothesis was tested using inferential statistics of Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The study revealed that, attitude of health workers negatively influence accessibility to Antenatal Care Services by pregnant women in IDPs' Camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State. The study recommended that, government should recruit more skilled health workers and provide incentives so as to motivate the health workers to perform their duties effectively.*

## **Introduction**

Borno is one of the North-Eastern states that have been hit with insurgency that claimed so many lives and displaced a lot of people from their homes. There are 15 Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs) camps officially recognized by the Borno State Government. All the camps are located in Maiduguri Municipal Council and Jere Local Government Area. The total number of IDPs residing in the 15 camps as at May, 2020 was 92,278. The on-going insurgency is the single most important threat to health care services across the IDPs' camps. Report shows that, all IDPs' camps have various cases of health conditions such as trauma, skin infection, anaemia, measles, chicken pox, vomiting, fever, diarrhoea, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and malnutrition. There are about 208 health workers providing health services across the 15 IDPs' camps. These health workers include doctors, nurses/midwives, community health extension workers, laboratory scientists, environmental health officers and pharmacists. Considering the population of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in all the camps, most of whom are women and children from 21 LGAs out of the 27 LGAs of the state, this continues to be a great barrier to health care services. In the last 6 months, 530 women gave birth in the camps. However, only 33% (n=15) of the camps have Antenatal care services (ANC). ANC services could play a role in reducing maternal-mortality and that it could ensure that pregnant women delivered with the assistance of skilled attendant (UNICEF, 2011).

Antenatal care services are the care received by pregnant women during pregnancy from skilled health personnel (Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) 2014). World Health Organization (2016) reported that, in 2015 an estimated 303,000 women died from pregnancy-related cases, 2.7 million babies died during the first 28 days of life and 2.6 million babies were still born. Quality health care during pregnancy and child birth can prevent many of these deaths; yet globally, only 64% of women receive ANC for four or more times throughout their pregnancy. In Borno State, 55.8% of pregnant women receive ANC from skilled provider and only 16.9% give birth in health facility with trained health personnel (NDHS, 2013). The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH, 2015), recommends four ANC visits as part of its National strategic Health Development plan 2010-2015 in Nigeria.

According to Moore, Alex-Hart and George (2011), unfriendly attitudes of staff and non-availability of staff are factors affecting ANC services. In a related study, NDHS (2013), revealed that women seeking ANC services has problem with worker's attitudes such as giving birth unattended and sometimes health service providers insult others. At government hospitals, women complained of high costs, being detained for unsettled bills and shortage of beds. It is common for some health providers' manner to be authoritarian, careless and unsympathetic; these negative attitudes of health workers have contributed to the clients not accessing health care services (Yamashita, Suplido, Ladines-Llave, Tanaka, Senba, & Matsuo, 2014).

## **Statement of the Problem**

Pregnant mothers are expected to be regularly attending ANC clinics to minimize many pregnancy related complications such as anaemia, asphyxia, eclampsia, etc. and enhance maternal health. Socioeconomic status (poverty), ignorance, cultural belief, poor roads network, accessibility during the rainy season among others have equally characterized their pregnancies with associated risks. Similarly, lack of access to health care facilities by pregnant women due to

attitude of health care workers could be one of the factors increasing pregnancy complications and maternal mortality as it has been observed that pregnant mothers in Maiduguri Municipal IDPs' camps are not regularly attending ANC services. It is against this background that the researcher investigated health workers' attitude as a factor affecting the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Borno State, Nigeria.

### Research Question

Do health workers' attitudes a factor affecting the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria?

### Hypothesis

The health workers' attitude is not a significant factor affecting the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.

### Methodology

A descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised pregnant women in fifteen (15) IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State estimated at about four thousand four hundred and forty (N=4,440), (NBS, 2020). Simple random sampling technique was used and selected 400 respondents. The research instrument was a researcher-developed structured questionnaire validated by three experts in the Department of Physical and Health Education, Aminu Saleh College of Education, Azare Bauchi State, Nigeria. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained using split-half method which was done at Damaturu, Local Government Area of Yobe State, Nigeria. The two scores were correlated using Cronbach Alpha. A reliability coefficient of .84 ( $r = .84$ ) was obtained. Data was collected by six (6) female research assistants. The postulated hypothesis was tested using inferential statistics of Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**Table 1: A table showing name of IDP camps, camp location, local government of IDPs and the estimated number of child-bearing age women**

S/N	Name of IDPs' Camps	Camp Location	Local Government of IDPs	Estimated Number of Child-Bearing Age Women
1.	Government Girls' College Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Bama	295
2.	Girls Secondary School Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Bama	371
3.	EYN/CAN Centre	Maiduguri Municipal	Gwoza, Askira, Chibok, Michika, Kukawa, Munguno and Madagali	310
4.	Farm Centre Camp	Jere	Jere, Mafa, Dikwa, Kala-Balge, Konduga, Bama and Marte	361
5.	Government College Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Gwoza	230

6.	Yerwa Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Bama	325
7.	Teachers Village Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Kukawa	371
8.	Bakassi Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Munguno and Guzamala	240
9.	National Youth Service Corp Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Konduga, Bama and Dambua	331
10.	Arabic Teachers College Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Gwoza and Askira	310
11.	MOGCOLIS Camp	Maiduguri Municipal	Abadan and Mobar	365
12.	Sanda Kyarimi Camp	Jere	Ngala, Dikwa, Mafa and Jere	371
13.	Dalori Camp	Jere	Bama	210
14.	Fori SUBEB School Camp	Jere	Bama	310
15.	Gubio Road Housing Estate Camp	Jere	Jere and Mafa	40
			<b>Total</b>	<b>4440</b>

## Results

**Research question:** Does health workers' attitude a factor affecting the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria?

**Table 2: Answer to the research question: Health workers' attitude and accessibility to antenatal care services**

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	N
1.	Lack of good health workers' attitude affect ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria	201 (50.2%)	127 (31.8%)	60 (15%)	12 (3%)	400
2.	Perceived negative health workers attitude hinders ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.	<b>207</b> <b>(51.7%)</b>	<b>117</b> <b>(29.3%)</b>	<b>66</b> <b>(16.5%)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(2.5%)</b>	<b>400</b>
3.	Unsympathetic health workers hinder ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.	<b>212</b> <b>(53%)</b>	<b>108</b> <b>(27%)</b>	<b>71</b> <b>(17.8%)</b>	<b>9</b> <b>(2.5%)</b>	<b>400</b>
4.	Non-availability of health hinders ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri	<b>217</b> <b>(54.3%)</b>	<b>102</b> <b>(25.5%)</b>	<b>68</b> <b>(17.0%)</b>	<b>13</b> <b>(3.32%)</b>	<b>400</b>

Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.					
<b>Column Total</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1600</b>

From table 1, 201 (50.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 127 (31.8%) agreed, 60 (15%) disagreed, while 12 (3%) strongly disagreed that health workers' attitude is factor affecting the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria. The table further revealed that 207 (51.7%) strongly agreed, 117 (29.3%) agreed, 66 (16.5%) Disagreed, 10 (2.5%) strongly disagreed that perceived negative health workers' attitude is a factor affecting the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria. It is also indicated that unsympathetic attitude of health workers hinders ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria as 212 (53%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 108 (27.0%) agreed, 71 (17.8%) disagreed while only 9 (2.5%) strongly disagreed. Non-availability of health hinders ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria as the above table showed 217 (54.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 102 (25.5%) agreed, were 68 (17.0%) disagreed and 13 (3.2%) strongly disagreed.

**Hypothesis:** Health workers' attitude is not significant factor affecting accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, in Borno State, Nigeria.

**Table 3: Chi-square analysis showing the health workers' attitude as a factor affecting accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, in Borno State, Nigeria**

S/ N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	N	df	Cal. $\chi^2$	Crit.V al	Dec.
1.	Lack of good health workers' attitude affect ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria	201 (50.2%)	127 (31.8%)	60 (15.0%)	12 (3.0%)	400				
2.	Perceived negative health workers attitude hinder ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs'	207 (51.7%)	117 (29.3%)	66 (16.5%)	10 (2.5%)	400				

camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.										
3. Unsympathetic health workers hinder ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.	212 (53.0%)	108 (27.0%)	71 (17.8%)	9 (2.5%)	40 0	9	1370.9	16.92	Ho	Rej.
4. Non-availability of health hinders ANC services accessibility among pregnant women in IDPs' camps.	217 (54.3%)	102 (25.5%)	68 (17.0%)	13 (3.2%)	40 0					
<b>Column Total</b>	837	454	265	44	1600					

### 0.05 alpha level

The finding from the analysis in table 2 shows that the calculated  $\chi^2$  value was 1370.9 and the table value was 16.92 with the degree of freedom 9 at 0.05 alpha levels. Since the calculated 12 value of 1370.9 was greater than the table value of 16.92, then, the hypothesis was rejected. This means that, poor health workers' attitude, perceived negative attitude of health workers, unsympathetic health workers and non-availability of health workers negatively influences the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.

### Discussion of Findings

The result of the tested hypothesis revealed that poor attitude of health workers, perceived negative health workers' attitude, unsympathetic health workers and non-availability of health workers negatively influences the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs' camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria. This is in line with Moore, Alex-Hart and George (2011) who argued that, unfriendly attitudes of staff and non-availability of staff are factors affecting ANC services. In a related study, NDHS (2013), revealed that women seeking ANC services has problem with worker's attitudes such as giving birth unattended and sometimes health service providers insult others. At government hospitals, women complained of high costs, being detained for unsettled bills and shortage of beds. Similarly, according to

Yamashita, Suplido, Ladines-Llave, Tanaka, Senba, and Matsuo, (2014) it is common for some health providers' manner to be authoritarian, careless and unsympathetic; these negative staff attitudes have contributed to the clients not accessing health care services. In terms of skilled personnel and material resources, all the Primary Health Care fell significantly short of national standard of at least four midwives per centre thus, assistance from doctors was four times more likely in urban areas than in rural areas, and the available health services are characterized by inefficiency, wasteful use of resources and low quality of services.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of this study, it has been concluded that, poor attitude of health workers negatively affects the accessibility to ANC services among pregnant women in IDPs camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the conclusion of this study it is recommended that, government should recruit more skilled health workers and provide incentives so as to motivate health workers to perform their duties effectively in all the IDPs Camps in Maiduguri Municipal, Borno State, Nigeria.

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